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Item 41 of the preliminary list*

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Letter dated 18 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you from Mr. Edgar Spence Herrera, Director General of International Organizations and Conferences in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, pertaining to the position taken by the Government of the Republic of Panama on the issue of anti-personnel landmines (see annex).

On instructions from my Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Aquilino E. BOYD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 3 June 1997 from the Director General of International Organizations and Conferences of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the concern expressed by the Government of the Republic of Panama regarding anti-personnel landmines and their adverse impact on the effective development of human rights and the necessary humanitarian actions.

Our Government, which respects the rules of international humanitarian law, acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and to its Protocols I, II, III and IV.

In this connection, I should like to inform you that the Government of Panama does not import, export, manufacture, use or store anti-personnel landmines, and joins other members of the international community in supporting a total ban on anti-personnel landmines.

(Signed) Edgar SPENCE HERRERA
Director General
International Organizations and Conferences